



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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U.S. human rights officials in Sudan

- U.S. Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Barry F. Lowenkron has begun his mission in Sudan. Lowenkron met with the head of the Human Rights Consultative Council, and then traveled to Darfur to review the situation there. Lowenkron called on the Government of Sudan to cooperate with the international community to end the conflict in Darfur, and to facilitate the work of the humanitarian organizations in the region. (*Al-Sudani, Al-Wihda, et al*)

Dispute over UN support packages to AU forces

- President Al-Bashir has sent a letter to the UN secretary-general challenging a plan to send UN peacekeepers to Darfur. Meanwhile UN spokeswoman Marie Okabe said that the letter from Al-Bashir contradicted the details of UN peacekeeping forces he had agreed to in November in Addis Ababa, and subsequently in Abuja. Although Al-Bashir agreed to the plan in November, he has since sent conflicting signals about his commitment to the second and third phases of the support packages for the AU forces in Darfur. Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali Al-Sadig refuted the UN accusation, saying that Al-Bashir's letter to the UN secretary general was based on the Darfur Peace Agreement and the Addis Ababa talks. (*Al-Aayam, Al-Sahafa, et al*)

Sudan and the ICC

- Minister of Justice Mohamed Ali Al-Mardi denied that Sudan would challenge the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Al-Mardi stated that Sudan may agree on a "compromise" with the international community on the issues of the ICC and the deployment of international troops in Darfur. Al-Mardi said that this compromise could happen on two conditions: that it does not affect

Sudan's sovereignty, and that the international community refrain from taking an "unfair" position against the Sudanese government on the Darfur issue. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Sudani, et al*)

Miscellaneous

- Sudanese translators working with the AU mission in Darfur began a strike last Wednesday to protest the AU's failure to pay three months of salaries. AU Mission in Sudan spokesman Nouredine Mezni stated that the AU has paid all its Sudanese translators their monthly salaries up to January and is doing its best to secure the salaries of February. (*Al-Wihda, Al-Hayat, et al*)

- The general director of the Ministry of Finance of South Sudan, Izak Makor, and the former federal Minister of Cabinet Affairs, General Martin Mulual Arop, were arrested yesterday in Juba in connection with a probe by the anti-corruption commission into allegations of financial corruption. (*Sudan Tribune, Al-Hayat, Al-Intibaha*)

- The Ugandan National Insurance Corporation has paid another \$1.25 million claim to the relatives of the victims who died in a July 2005 helicopter crash with former Sudanese First Vice President John Garang. Seven Ugandan families earlier received \$1.75 million in compensation. (*New Vision [Uganda]*)

Quote of the Day:

"The Sudanese judiciary is protected by the constitution, and we will not 'compromise' its principles." – Minister of Justice Mohamed Ali Al-Mardi.

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